

Senate, March 30, 1998. The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. WILLIAMS, 29th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELECTRONIC FILING OF PLEADINGS IN SUPERIOR COURT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) The judicial branch may
2 permit the filing of any document that is required
3 by law to be filed with the Superior Court by
4 computer or facsimile transmission or by employing
5 new technology as it is developed.

6 (b) For purposes of this section, the judges
7 of the Superior Court may prescribe alternative
8 methods for the signing, subscribing or verifying
9 of such document by a person so that such document
10 shall have the same validity and status as a paper
11 document that was signed, subscribed or verified
12 by such person.

13 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of
14 the general statutes, the Chief Court
15 Administrator may permit the payment of any fee
16 that is required by law to be paid to the clerk of
17 the Superior Court by use of any existing
18 technology or new technology as it is developed.
19 The payor may be charged a service fee for any
20 such payment. The service fee shall not exceed any
21 charge by the service provider, including any
22 discount rate.

23 (d) The judges of the Superior Court may
24 adopt any rules they deem necessary to implement
25 the provisions of this section and the Office of
26 the Chief Court Administrator shall prescribe any
27 forms required to implement such provisions.

28 Sec. 2. Section 52-45a of the general
29 statutes is repealed and the following is
30 substituted in lieu thereof:

31 Civil actions shall be commenced by legal
32 process consisting of a writ of summons or
33 attachment, describing the parties, the court to
34 which it is returnable, the return day, [and] the
35 date and place for the filing of an appearance AND
36 INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
37 COURT ADMINISTRATOR. The writ shall be accompanied
38 by the plaintiff's complaint. The writ may run
39 into any judicial district and shall be signed by
40 a commissioner of the Superior Court or a judge or
41 clerk of the court to which it is returnable.

42 STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS: In
43 subsection (b) "that" was changed to "so that such
44 document" for clarity.

45 JUD COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 35 NAY 0 JFS

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"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER sSB 266

STATE IMPACT	None
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	None
STATE AGENCY(S)	Judicial Department

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OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sSB 266

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELECTRONIC FILING OF PLEADINGS IN SUPERIOR COURT

SUMMARY: This bill authorizes the judges of the Superior Court to adopt rules (1) allowing litigants to file court pleadings by computer, fax, or other new technology and (2) prescribing alternative ways for validly signing, subscribing, or verifying such documents.

The bill also authorizes the chief court administrator to direct Superior Court clerks to accept electronically transmitted court fee payments and to permit new payment methods as technology becomes available. The court may pass through to the fee payer any amount that the service provider charges the court for transmitting the funds.

The bill directs the chief court administrator to develop forms needed to carry out the changes in court filing and payment procedures.

Finally, the bill allows the chief court administrator

to require that additional unspecified information be provided on writs of summons and attachment, the documents served upon a civil defendant notifying him that he is being sued. Currently, the writs must identify the parties to the lawsuit, the name and address of the court where the suit will be heard, and the date by which the defendant must file his court appearance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 35 Nay 0